

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 7, 2011



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Railroad Museum Hosts Special Activities for National Model Railroad Association Convention Attendees

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – All this week, Sacramento is proudly hosting 1,700 attendees to the annual National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) convention. Offering dozens of clinics and workshops along with tours of private homes featuring extensive model railroads, this is no ordinary convention. This week only, special exhibits have been rolled out to greet convention attendees and the public at the California State Railroad Museum, a part of California State Parks. A special highlight takes place on Thursday, July 7, when convention attendees will enjoy a day of on-site Railroad Museum workshops and tours followed by an evening Museum visit including chartered steam train rides.

A 15-inch scale live steam model of one of the Museum's beautifully restored 19th century locomotives, the 1876-vintage "Sonoma," is on display this week inside the Railroad Museum, right next to the original. Constructed by Mr. Frank Allen of Orland and donated to the Museum after his passing, this large-scale model operated in Old Sacramento during Railfair '91 and Railfair '99. It is maintained in operating condition and occasionally travels off-site to participate in special events.

One of the Museum's most stunning full-sized exhibits, Southern Pacific Railroad streamlined diesel locomotive No. 6051, will remain on display in the Museum Roundhouse throughout the convention. A specially commissioned, museum-quality HO Scale model of this "Daylight" painted, 1950-vintage locomotive is being produced by the nationally known model railroading firm of Wm. K. Walthers. It will be available for sale at the Museum Store beginning on Thursday, with a formal unveiling of the model's prototype scheduled for convention attendees that evening at the Museum.

Additionally, the festivities will be topped off with a special "Carpet Cutting" ceremony scheduled for Thursday at 5:30 p.m. just as a special evening at the Museum gets underway for convention attendees. The ceremony will announce the progress being made on an all-new Scale Model Railroad Exhibit being planned for the California State Railroad Museum. This exhibit, first announced in December 2009 as a partnership effort between the NMRA and California State Parks, will join "Small Wonders: The Magic of Toy Trains" on the Museum's second floor. When completed, guests will enjoy a comprehensive look at the many Small Trains that collectors and hobbyists have found fascinating since the earliest days of railroading. For more, please visit www.csrmf.org/whatsnew.

About the California State Railroad Museum

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the non-profit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Widely regarded as North America's finest and most

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popular railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill commercial buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org or call (916) 445-6645.

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